

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2004/01/28 : CIA-RDP82T00285R000200240014-3

6 November 1974

Copy 4

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of Strategic Research

SUBJECT : Preliminary Assessment Costs to IAS

REFERENCE : [ ] Effects on IAS of No Preliminary  
Assessment [ ]

1. The preliminary assessment is an all-source paper designed to give senior agency officials a concise and timely appraisal of significant intelligence from each portion (bucket) of satellite reconnaissance missions. Similar assessments are also done on photography from certain aircraft reconnaissance missions, but the cost or impact of these is not addressed in this paper.

2. The preliminary assessment is usually prepared 2 or 3 days after the receipt of film in IAS. The schedule is approved in each instance by the DDI and is affected by weekends and holidays, critical international situations, and aberrations in the film delivery schedule. Overtime work is normally not undertaken in preparation of preliminary assessments of satellite missions. Exceptions are made, however when a special topic or geographic area is to be reported on.

3. In IAS, the first two days after the receipt of new film is spent on assimilating the new information from the imagery. This essential activity must be done expeditiously even if an assessment is not scheduled. Although some of this work contributes to the assessment process, most of it does not, and we do not include assimilation time in our assessment costs. Also not included in assessment costs are activities such as coordinating with headquarters analysts on items of immediate or special interest to them, reviewing articles prepared for the NID, and preparation of special memoranda which complement portions of the preliminary assessment.

4. On the basis of a "target topic list" sent to IAS prior to the assessment, [ ] imagery analysts with an average grade of GS-12 and [ ] with an average grade of GS-13+ each spend about two to three hours in direct support of the average preliminary assessment. This support consists of drafting, reviewing, and coordinating the article with production office analysts, and attending a meeting to review the final draft in order to assure the Director, IAS and the OSR assessment team chief that no significant details are omitted from the final paper.

Approved For Release 2004/01/28 : CIA-RDP82T00285R000200240014-3

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2004/01/28 : CIA-RDP82T00285R000200240014-3

SUBJECT: Preliminary Assessment Costs to IAS

5. In addition to these imagery analyst costs, the Director and his deputy spend about 2 hours each in review of the initial substantive contributions. The special assistant (GS-15) and two helpers (GS-11/12) also spend about 6 hours each in providing general support to the OSR team chief and in pre-assessment planning and post-assessment clean-up. Typing of assessment drafts involve three secretaries (GS-06) and amounts to a total of five hours.

6. As part of the normal assessment IAS prepares minibboards to illustrate significant items. Despite the absence of an assessment [redacted] we have continued to make minibboards, two copies of which are sent to OSR/RAD to be used in headquarters briefings. We made about 20 boards [redacted] about the same number we would have made for assessments. These boards serve several purposes. On many occasions the same print is used as an illustration in an IAS note, the vugraph from the board is used in the IAS mission briefing, and copies of the boards with accompanying notes are sent to the NIO, the Salt support staff, and to analysts in selected production offices. Not including lab time, the minibboard effort requires the service of 2 graphics personnel (GS-09) for a total of 12 hours per assessment. We believe the value of these boards more than offsets the cost savings should they be discontinued.

7. In summary then, the costs directly attributable to our participation in the preliminary assessment amounts to about [redacted] manhours per assessment.

	Manhours	Analysts	Av Grade
--	----------	----------	----------

Imagery Analysts			
Supervision			
Management			
Front office			
Sp. Ass't duties			
Typing			
Graphics			

8. In FY 74 we participated in [redacted] assessments. The total cost to IAS thus amounted to about [redacted] manhours, or about [redacted] man-years.

9. If the assessment were discontinued permanently, we would expect the net saving in costs would amount to only about [redacted] [redacted] About [redacted] would be required to continue production of minibboards and to prepare special memoranda or IAS Notes on items of significant interest to headquarters analysts in lieu of the

Approved For Release 2004/01/28 : CIA-RDP82T00285R000200240014-3

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2004/01/28 : CIA-RDP82T00285R000200240014-3

SUBJECT: Preliminary Assessment Costs to IAS

assessment text. The total savings would amount to about

This savings would not accrue to any single individual or position, but would be absorbed in our normal production tasks.

10. In conclusion, discontinuing the preliminary assessment would enable IAS to reallocate the equivalent of of imagery analysis time to other production functions. It would, on the other hand, have the disadvantage of eliminating a mechanism for ensuring the timely and systematic joint exploitation and analysis by IAS and the production offices of significant intelligence from each satellite mission. IAS has long felt that the process of producing the assessment was at least as important as the product itself. In the absence of the discipline of the assessment mechanism, it will be incumbent on both the production offices and IAS to devise other means of ensuring that all potentially significant information is effectively recognized and evaluated on a timely basis.

GEORGE W. ALLEN

Director

Imagery Analysis Service

Distribution:

- Copy 1 - Director, OSR
- 2 - DDI Management Staff
- 3 - OSR Planning Staff
- 4 - IAS/ODIR

Approved For Release 2004/01/28 : CIA-RDP82T00285R000200240014-3

TOP SECRET

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/01/28 : CIA-RDP82T00285R000200240014-3

Approved For Release 2004/01/28 : CIA-RDP82T00285R000200240014-3